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understanding of all the events recorded in the books of the Old Testament." "The questions of biblical criticism pertain chiefly to the authorship, structure, editorship and date of the Old Testament *books*. Can the traditional theory be sustained by the evidence of facts? . . . If the traditional theory falls, it is not truth, not objective reality that succumbs; it is a human theory only." "The unique spiritual dignity of the volume, the unaccountable contrast between Hebrew literature and the sacred literature of all other nations, . . . these things are the same whether the entire Pentateuch came from the hand of Moses, or many parts of it were indited by some unknown inspired authors." These extracts give the reader an idea of the breadth and evangelical spirit of this excellent book.

The Psalms.

The Psalms. A new Translation with Introductory Essay and Notes. By John DeWitt, D. D. New York: A. D. F. Randolph and Co. Pp. xxxvi., 325. Price, \$2.00.

This substantial, handsome octavo volume is the result of many years' study, embracing the published materials and revisions of two preceding volumes. It is an attempt to put the poetry of the Hebrew Psalter into rhythmical English lines so far as this can be done without sacrificing strict accuracy in the rendering of the original. The endeavor is very successful in attaining elegance with correctness, and will be found a desirable help in imparting freshness and light to a reading of the Psalter. The introductory essay and the notes are not particularly satisfactory largely because of the limits which the author imposed upon himself. Some excellent observations are given in the former and a good degree of Hebrew scholarship—not the highest—is shown in the latter. The author is beguiled by none of the vagaries of modern criticism except that in the case of a few psalms he admits the unreliability of the titles and grants that the 74th may be Maccabæan. The positiveness with which the traditional views are stated—without qualification and without argument, in most cases—contrasts somewhat prominently with the quite grudging acquiescence—where acquiescence is necessary—in the results of criticism. But this is perhaps the right and reasonable course in such a book, intended not so much for scholars as for intelligent people in general. A volume like this cannot fail to be helpful in disseminating sound knowledge about the Book of Psalms and in arousing new interest in it as poetry. The want of any indices should be corrected in subsequent editions.

Ancient Oriental Religions.

Fire from Strange Altars. By Rev. J. N. Fradenburgh, Ph. D., D. D. Cincinnati: Cranston and Stowe. Pp. 324, price 90 cents.

Any endeavor to present a popular and intelligible account of the ancient religions of the East is praiseworthy. Dr. Fradenburgh is a skillful compiler and popular writer and this latest book from his hand is useful and admirable. It is divided into three parts: 1) Religion in the land between the Rivers (Assyria and Babylonia), 2) The gods of the Phœnicians, 3) The faith of the Pharaohs (Egypt). Much material from the original sources is found in the book, which could not elsewhere be obtained without much trouble and expense. It will be of real service.